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### Newsletter #87:

### What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! What a crazy week! Did I mention that it is Fall auction season here in Europe? Well, someone must have heard because it is booming with auctions here currently in the UK where all my numismatic friends were scrambling around trying to catch the numerous sales in the city. Certainly the fact that Coinex, the annual trade show here, is taking place, brings everyone around hunting for great coins. This year is a new and bigger venue so a lot more dealers, and hence collectors, will be in attendance. I'm hoping to see some interesting material today and I write this just prior to heading off.

A big thanks to my friends at Roma Numismatics (Richard, Alexander, Simon, Clementine, Leslee, Sally) for making my birthday so special on a difficult auction day. What a wonderful surprise to get a birthday song, sung by all my fellow dealers during the lunch break. You guys are great! And to all of you that wrote me a note, many thanks! I know that many of you actually do read my newsletter which makes it much easier to keep writing them.

*Here is what is happening this week:*

**Baldwin's of St. James Auction 20-23 (Sept 26-28)**

Baldwin's of St. James is conducting four auctions over the course of 2 days during Coinex. They are the official auctioneer during this popular trade show. The majority of the coins are British and World but there are some nice ancients. If you are attending Coinex this auction is a no-brainer or at least popping in for some fun would be worthwhile.

**Solidus Numismatic Literature Sale (Sept 29)**

If you are looking at all for a hard to find numismatic book then this is the auction for you! Solidus has 1,012 lots in this upcoming sale. It seems like someone is selling their entire library. I started to browse and found several books that I need. Please let me know if you want my help in this auction. Books are very important for learning about what we collect.

**Savoca 10th Blue Auction (Sept 29-30)**

This e-sale is a massive one with 2,165 coins being sold over the course of two days. Starting prices are very budget friendly but that doesn't necessarily mean that you won't pay full market value. A good sale to see a breadth of ancient coins. The last Savoca auction I was so pressed for time that I bid on my phone. My point is only that it is very easy to participate so check it out on Sixbid or Numisbids.

**German auctions**

As I am attending both the Künker and G&M auctions after the UK visit I wanted to repeat the auction information from last week. Please get in touch with me if you want representation services at either of these auctions. It's easy and my terms are very advantageous for collectors.

**Künker Auction Auction 312 - Ancients portion only (Oct 8)**

The festivities in Osnabück actually begin on October 5 and end on the 12th, however the ancient portion will fall on October 8. My last trip to Osnabrück around this time last year was absolutely delightful. If you ever have a chance to visit the folks at Künker, do so! They really make you feel at home. This auction features two major collections, one of "Dr. W.R." and the Eberhard Link collection of Roman Aes Grave. There is a very large grouping of ancient Spanish coins and yet an even larger Celtic coin section. The catalog really has a lot to offer in terms of varied coinage and pedigree. It is worth to check out. I'll be viewing Künker from October 2-5 so please get me your bids prior to this.

**Gorny & Mosch Auction 257 - (Oct 15-16)**

G&M has a nice auction comprised of 1,036 coins for their ancients portion. It has been awhile since I attended a G&M auction because of timing conflicts. I'm happy to be able to go out for this auction as there seems to be some nice material on offer. There is a substantial Celtic section of 93 coins. The Greek section is varied but has some excellent offers on Sicilian coinage. The estimates for the auction are very reasonable and the

quality high. I will be viewing G&M on the a few days prior to the auction so please keep that in mind when giving me bids to allow for sufficient viewing.



### Coin of the Week

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-republic/l-plautius-plancus-rome-47-bc?rq=rr1076>

**ROMAN REPUBLIC. L. Plautius Plancus. Rome, 47 BC**

AR Denarius, 3.61g (16mm, 7mm). Facing mask of Medusa with disheveled hair; coiled serpents flanking / Victory (or winged Aurora) flying right, head slightly left, holding reins and conducting four rearing horses of the sun.

**Price: \$1,750**

*The coinage of the moneyer L. Plautius Plancus is fascinating and has elicited several theories on why he chose the imagery he did. On the obverse of the coin is a mask of Medusa, a beauty turned into a gorgon by the enraged Athena when she broke a vow and married Poseidon instead of remaining celibate her entire life. The reverse shows a winged Aurora, goddess of dawn, holding the reins of four horses before her brother, the Sun.*

*The story in the year 442 BC, the Tibicines, flute players from Tibur, were offended by the Romans (in particular the stern senator Appius Claudius) when they were not permitted to eat in the Temple of Jupiter. They left immediately back to the town of Tibur. The Senators, which were fearful of the repercussions of this slight asked the Tiburtines to send back the Tibicines. It was then that a relative of L. Plautius Plancus, a certain C. Plautius, deceived Appius Claudius by devising a plan to get the Tibicines to return. When the Tibicines refused to return they instead held feasts in the homes of the Tiburtines. The Tiburtines gave the Tibicines lots of wine, making them drunk. Once they were asleep, they were loaded in waggons and taken to the Forum in Rome. To avoid arousing interest and being recognized they were put in masks and women's clothing. When they awoke they were surrounded by the Romans who greeted them cheerfully and welcomed them back to Rome. The Tibicines anger subsided and they agreed that every year for three days they would return to Rome, feast in the Temple of*

*Jupiter and ramble around the city enjoying themselves. The festival Quinquatrus Minusculae was celebrated every June 13 to commemorate this day with the participants wearing masks as the Tibicines once did.*

*The coin with the Medusa head on the obverse is relatable to this story and the reverse with the allusion to the early arrival at dawn of the Tibicines back to Rome.*

*There is much speculation about whether the moneyer L. Plautius Plancus would have really known this history to reflect it on his coinage but the story is fun and gives more credibility to the themes that this moneyer.*

**References:** Crawford 453/1a-b CRI 29; Sydenham 959-959a; Plautia 15-15a; RBW 1583-4

**Grade:** Small indentation on cheek but otherwise well-centered and good strike. EF/aEF

rr1076

<https://www.shannaschmidt.com/roman-republic/l-plautius-plancus-rome-47-bc?rq=rr1076>

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at [shanna@shannaschmidt.com](mailto:shanna@shannaschmidt.com)

Until next week!  
Shanna

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